

## Message Text

SECRET

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45

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-03 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-07 RSC-01

CIEP-03 TRSE-00 SS-20 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-03 INR-11 NSAE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 LAB-06

SIL-01 L-03 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 EUR-25 ARA-16 DRC-01

NEA-14 /210 W

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R 140951Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0390

S E C R E T VIENTIANE 6331

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN, ECON, LA

SUBJECT: LAOS ECONOMIC MISSIONS

1. ACCOUNT ECONOMIC PROBLEMS RESULTING NON-ACCEPTANCE IMF RECOMMENDATION, PGNU DECIDED SEND ECONOMIC MISSIONS TO FRIENDLY COUNTRIES. IN CONVERSATIONS WITH MINISTER OF NATIONAL ECONOMY/PLAN, SOTH PHETRASY; MINISTER OF FINANCE, NGON SANANIKONE; AND SECSTATE OF NATIONAL ECONOMY/PLAN, SOMPHOU OUDOMVILAY, USAID DIR WAS TOLD MINISTRY OF NATIONAL ECONOMY/PLAN OFFICIALS HAVE RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS TO PREPARE DOCUMENTATION TO PERMIT THESE ECONOMIC MISSIONS TO DISCUSS LAO FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC REQUIREMENTS WITH FRIENDLY COUNTRIES. USAID CONSULTANT LOUIS BERGER AND USAID ADVISORS ARE DISCREETLY WORKING WITH MINPLAN PERSONNEL TO PREPARE NECESSARY DOCUMENTATION BUT ARE OBVIOUSLY RESTRICTED IN THEIR LATITUDE DUE PREPARATION INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN BY MINISTER OF NATIONAL ECONOMY/PLAN. AS SOON AS DOCUMENTS HAVE BEEN FINALIZED, THEY WILL BE FORWARDED TO WASHINGTON.

2. PGNU PLANS AT PRESENT ARE: FIRST OF THREE ECONOMIC MISSIONS WILL DEPART SECOND HALF OF SEPTEMBER TO CHINA, SOVIET UNION, NORTH KOREA, SOUTH KOREA, JAPAN AND ALGIERS TO PRESENT LAO  
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SHOPPING LIST. DELEGATION WILL BE HEADED BY MINISTER OF NATIONAL

ECONOMY/PLAN, SOTH PHETRASY, AND WILL BE EQUALLY BALANCED WITH PL AND VTE SIDE MEMBERS. SECOND ECONOMIC MISSION SCHEDULED TO DEPART NOVEMBER-DECEMBER WILL VISIT BOTH EASTERN AND WESTERN EUROPE INCLUDING SCANDANAVIAN COUNTRIES, AND THIRD MISSION IS SCHEDULED FOR CANADA, U.S. AND LATIN AMERICA SOMETIME EARLY 1975. IT IS NOW PLANNED DELEGATION WILL ALWAYS BE HEADED BY MINISTER OF NATIONAL ECONOMY/PLAN, SOTH PHETRASY.

3. PGNU BELIEVES THAT BY SENDING THESE MISSIONS ABROAD SOME OF THEIR IMMEDIATE AND LONG-RANGE FISCAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS CAN BE SOLVED; HOWEVER, GIVEN EXPERIENCES OF LAST TWO WEEKS WHEN NEW ECONOMIC CONTROLLED MEASURES CAME INTO BEING, CONSIDERABLE DOUBT IS NOW RAISED AMONG RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS WHETHER THESE MISSIONS REALLY CAN HELP LAOS SOLVE DAY-TO-DAY BREAD AND BUTTER PROBLEMS THEY HAVE CREATED FOR THEMSELVES.

4. MINFIN SANANIKONE WHO WILL HEAD LAO DELEGATION TO FORTH-COMING SEPTEMBER IMF AND IBRD ANNUAL MEETING TOLD USAID DIR HE HOPES TO DISCUSS LAOS ECONOMIC PROBLEMS WITH APPROPRIATE U.S. OFFICIALS DURING HIS STAY IN WASHINGTON.  
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, ECONOMIC PROGRAMS, TRADE VISITS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CollinP0  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Errors:** N/A  
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**Reference:** n/a  
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**Review Authority:** CollinP0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 06 AUG 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <06-Aug-2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <26 FEB 2003 by CollinP0>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** LAOS ECONOMIC MISSIONS  
**TAGS:** EFIN, ECON, LA, IMF, IBRD  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005